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Twelve Rules of Perspective



By **Asher Intrater**

Actually there is only one rule, but it has 12 parts or applications. Here is the rule as Yeshua stated it.

“Why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?” (Matthew 7:3)

This has to do with our “eye;” that is, how we see things. Each person has a different perspective. What one sees as big, another sees as small and vice versa.

I have titled this the rule of “*shekel and shemesh*.” A *shekel* is the Israeli coin; *shemesh* is Hebrew for the sun. If you hold up a shekel at arm’s length it seems to be the same size as the sun; although obviously in actual size, the sun is infinitely immeasurably larger.

This principle of optic perspective is simply that what is closer to you seems **bigger**; what is **farther** from you seems **smaller**.

How does this work out in interpersonal communication and relationships?

Here is where I see twelve applications of perspective:

1. Anything you do *right* seems enormous to you.
2. Anything you do *right* seems tiny to someone else.
3. Anything someone else does *right* seems tiny to you.
4. Anything someone else does *right* seems enormous to him.
5. Whatever *difficulty* you have to face seems enormous to you.
6. Whatever *difficulty* you have to face seems tiny to someone else.
7. Whatever *difficulty* someone else has to face seems tiny to you.
8. Whatever *difficulty* someone else has to face seems enormous to him.
9. Whatever you do *wrong* seems insignificant to you.
10. Whatever you do *wrong* seems enormous to someone else.
11. Whatever someone else does *wrong* seems enormous to you.
12. Whatever someone else does *wrong* seems insignificant to him.

This can greatly frustrate our efforts to communicate. You think that the other person is lying or that he doesn’t honor you. But being frustrated doesn’t help. You have to take into account that the other person’s perspective on the same situation is *necessarily* different from yours.

To go back to Yeshua’s parable: **your beam is someone else’s speck; your speck is someone else’s beam.** It may be an optical illusion. But how it appears optically is mathematically proportional in the “distance to size” ratio. It may be just optics (perspective), but that is the science of optics.

Hopefully this list of perspectives can help us to prepare for the astonishing variety of “disconnects” we are liable to experience in human interactions, and help us to apply Yeshua’s conclusion:

“You hypocrite, first take the beam out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.” (Luke 7:5)



Summer Update

By Avi Tekle



AID FOR REFUGEES & IMMIGRANTS

Last month we shared about our week-long summer camp that blessed 75 children. That same week, we also held a special distribution event for new immigrant families and refugee families from Ukraine.

In one day over 40 families were welcomed into our fellowship hall with an atmosphere of pleasant music, friendly faces and cold drinks as they came in from the summer heat. Each family was gifted a full set of essential household goods! Many of them arrived in Israel with almost nothing and **because of your prayers and generosity they left our ministry center with everything they needed to start to feel at home.** Among the items they received were dishes, kitchen knives, pots, a microwave, an electric teapot and more.

One of the women who came that day was so moved that she stayed in the reception area even after she had gathered all of the goods for her family; telling us her story and crying in grief over all she had been through, but also crying out of gratitude for the experience of the day. She later sent us this note:

"We are Ukrainian refugees from the city of Zaporizhzhia. We arrived in Israel in March 2022. Because of the war, we arrived with only our documents. The suitcases and bags we had brought with us were thrown from the train and everything else was left at home in the rush. The way here was very difficult, but we made it on our own. We survived two days stuck in the train without water. Our grandson was in the hospital with an acute asthma attack, connected to intravenous drip and when we had to leave suddenly, we discharged him prematurely without even having an inhalation machine to take with us. Thank God, we made it and he is ok.

Tents of Mercy Network of Congregations and Humanitarian Aid

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I want to express my deep gratitude and the gratitude of my family to Ohalei Rachamim for all the good you are doing for people like us. We were received so kindly and we were listened to. We are so grateful for the generosity and kindness. I myself worked in humanitarian work in my past job, and never did I imagine myself being on the opposite side but am so grateful to the staff at Ohalei who have responded to us in such kindness."

CONGREGATIONAL OUTING

Then in August, we had our annual summer congregational picnic. **There's nothing better than going out to spend a day together as an extended congregational family!** We traveled to the picturesque national park, Gan Hashlosha, where we ate, swam, played games and had deep conversations together under the palm trees. Some of the families that came were also newly arrived immigrant and refugee families.

PRAYER POINTS:

- For the continued **success of our household goods drive.** We have over 100 more families on our list. **Pray that as needs are met, hearts will be opened.**
- For **provision and wisdom in our ongoing renovation project** in the multi-purpose fellowship hall and classrooms.
- For a **successful Fall Feast distribution** that will bring blessing to our city.
- In the past few weeks, we have felt a shift in the spirit, and we sense that God is preparing us for something new and big. **Thank you for joining with us to pray for revival in the Haifa Bay Area.**



For Such a Time as This



By **Guy Cohen**

When the war in the Ukraine started, it was a shock to many of us. In a daze, we asked ourselves, “Why is this happening and what will the outcome be?”

Some thought it was the end time war, the “bear” coming down from the North, Gog and Magog. I prayed to the Lord, needing to know my role/our role in these current events. What could Harvest of Asher, and the nation, do?

I would like to share the areas where God made it possible for us to help in the operations needed to assist people fleeing the war.

We received requests to provide buses to transport Ukrainians to the borders of Poland, Hungary, Romania, and Moldova, in order to get them out of the war zone. This took place in the early part of the war, during the cold winter months. Believers from all over the world networked with contacts in local churches and people were waiting at the borders to assist the refugees. Donations were sent that enabled us to help local ministries buy food for distribution along those borders.

During all of this, Jeremiah 31:8, **“Behold, I will bring them from the north country, And gather them from the ends of the earth...”** (Aliyah), was continually before me and weighed heavily on my heart and in my spirit.

As things developed, I felt led to approach the Akko Municipality to speak about the possible influx of refugees to the area. As we spoke, I realized that they were unprepared and quickly found myself involved in the planning stages. I shared what I believed would be the initial basic needs of

families coming to the area. As a result of these discussions, the municipality agreed to provide a small warehouse where second-hand as well as new items, that people wanted to donate, could be organized. This included clothing, bedding and other household items.

At one of the city meetings, which I attended, we asked where the refugees could be housed. The Israeli government subsidizes rent for new immigrants. This, however, does not include refugees who enter Israel under a different status. The government’s Aliyah policy is that when immigrants come they are either sent to cities in the north or south of Israel. This is due to the lower cost of living and apartment affordability. Tel Aviv, and surrounding areas, are very expensive. (In fact, Tel Aviv is by, some measures, the most expensive city in the world to live in.)

The next question was what would be needed in the apartments. Remember that those making Aliyah as well as refugees are often coming with only the clothes on their backs. Many families arrived in Israel not just from Ukraine but also from Belarus and Russia. The Ukrainian families were mostly women and children, since men over the age of 18 are automatically drafted into the Ukrainian army.

We helped finance the renovation of three classrooms for Ulpan (Hebrew language school). In addition, we contributed funds to the renovation of a small apartment building on a local kibbutz that has welcomed roughly thirty families to their community.

Harvest of Asher Congregation



Over the last six months, we have been distributing funds raised to meet people's basic needs. The following is a list of some of the items and services we helped provide through the Akko, Nahariyah, Carmiel, and Matte Asher municipalities.

- 150 of each of the following items were distributed: microwaves, electric kettles, water filter pitchers, electric hot plates
- 60 of each of the following items were distributed: washing machines, refrigerators and sofa beds
- 12 dryers
- mattresses (I lost count!)

The items in this list were part of a budget of up to 3,000 shekels given to each of the families to choose what they needed most. In addition, they were given coupons for the purchase of smaller household and personal items according to their needs.

To further help the families, a campaign was held this summer to raise finances for school supplies. One hundred and fifty children received \$100 worth of school supplies each.

First of all we want to say “thank you.” These last few years, from Covid to the war in Ukraine, have been intense and so much of what has happened has been far out of our control. Yet in the midst of the crisis and trauma, we have been able to be a light to our community. Without you, we could not have shown God’s love, compassion and provision to these families.

Currently the requests to help with both immigrant and refugee families are declining. The first wave is coming to an end. The families are getting settled and will shortly complete language school and go forward from there.

However, I believe this is not the end, but rather a beginning. We can expect many challenging times ahead. Looking toward the future, I see that we are on the edge of yet another confrontation with enemies on our northern border in Lebanon. So hold tight and link your arms with us in prayer as the next chapter unfolds and we cry out, “Yeshua, come.”

Blessings to you and your household from Harvest of Asher for a happy and healthy Feast of Trumpets/Rosh Hashanah.



What Will We Really Choose?



By **Leon Mazin**

The Torah passage “Behold” (Re’eh) leads to some conclusions that are as relevant now as when they were first written:

“Behold, I offer you today a blessing and a curse: a blessing if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you today, but a curse if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God...” (Deuteronomy 11:26-28)

Choosing Obedience = Choosing Blessing

The commandments of the Lord were never intended to bring us salvation. Salvation is God's sovereign action based on His mercy and love for us. However, obedience is our appropriate response; and not only that, obeying God's commands also determines the quality of our life. Living a life of habitually acting according to His commands puts us on a track of blessing. Today, some young adults seek extreme adrenaline sports. However, as a person gets older, he begins to appreciate a secure, orderly and peaceful existence. And this is achieved in God's grace by simply doing what the Lord has commanded!

Keeping the commandments not only leads to blessings and success. It also protects us from witchcraft, heresies, and delusions. Let's continue with Deuteronomy 13:1-3:

“If a prophet or a dreamer arises among you and presents you with a sign or a miracle, and the sign or miracle that he spoke to you comes to pass; and he says, ‘Let us go after other gods, which you do not know, and we will serve them,’ then listen not to the words of this prophet, or this dreamer; for by this the LORD your God is testing you...”

Constantly walking in the commandments of the Lord develops immunity against lies – even those of a “prophet or dreamer” who may seem genuinely anointed or attract lots of attention or assume a role of mediator in place of the Messiah.

Our faith is not based on miracles. Even though miracles do occur, they are not the absolute indicator. Pharaoh's magi also performed miracles. We are commanded to look directly to the Lord. If a miracle happens from the Lord, glorify Him; and if there is no miracle, obey and thank Him for the fact that He lives in our hearts and watches over us.

Moses warned us with the words, “the LORD your God is testing you.” Do not deviate into lies. Show faith and loyalty! Choose well!



An Invitation

Monica talks about losing her husband and gaining new faith



By **Monica Obreja**

Editorial note from Tamar Afriat: The image of Monica's youngest children weeping next to their father's grave and the boys, on their hands and knees, pushing dirt into the hole according to Jewish tradition – is one I will never ever forget. Monica is an amazing woman from Congregation Tiferet Yeshua in Tel Aviv. She has experienced great tragedy and, instead of falling into despair, drew closer to the Lord. Monica is the first to admit that she is weak, but the witness of the Holy Spirit in her life is powerful.

When I lost my husband to COVID, broken doesn't even begin to describe how I felt. In my wildest dreams, I never imagined that I would become a widow while we were still young and had young children. I would have wept just imagining the possibility. Grief was consuming me, and I knew that I would not be able to care for our nine children if I didn't do something. I had to fight. So, I did the only thing that I knew for sure would save me, and I did it with a passion: I cried out to God.

As believers, we can spend many years in the outer courtyard of the Temple. I can honestly say that for 24 years, I was there. My husband led me to the Lord when we first met, but, to some extent, I was "tagging along." The problem was that I considered myself a strong believer – a passionate believer even! Today I know that I was defining myself by a set of beliefs that I strongly agreed with. That is not the same as having a deep personal relationship with God. About a month before my husband got sick, I started to feel that maybe something wasn't exactly right in my faith. Soon enough, I would discover what it was.

Today I know that God did not pay the ultimate price just for us to sit in the outer courtyard. He wants us with Him, and He is calling each of us to enter into the Holy of Holies. We have worship songs about it, but entering into the Holy of Holies is not a special feeling we get during an anointed worship service. Entering into the Holy of Holies is a life journey. To embark on that journey, there are a few essential first steps we have to take. Without them, we will never make it.

Setting aside time with God every day has to be a priority. If we do not invest time in connecting with God, we will never enter into a real relationship with Him, and we will stay in the outer courtyard. Staying in the outer courtyard does not mean that you are not saved. But being in that place for a long time, where there is still a lot of the world and its distractions in you, makes it a lot easier to get up and walk away altogether.

Like I said, for many years I was following my husband's lead in my faith. I was fellowshipping in our congregation. I was listening to powerful messages and worship music. All of those things are absolutely important. But you can't come into a personal relationship with God in a group. You have to come by yourself. Alone.

When I found myself completely alone, without anyone to lead me, that is when I found the way. *When I was drowning in grief after losing my husband, I began crying out to God constantly.* Every day. Sometimes all day long. Before I knew it, I was tasting something I had never known before: a real relationship with God! To be clear, it is only by His grace, not by my efforts.

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I just make the time to sit at His feet each day, something I had never done before. The more time I spend at His feet receiving from Him, the more grace He gives me to make time in my schedule to be there.

God desires us to be with Him so much and is jealous for our affections. My husband and I were amazing together. Our relationship was so blessed, especially in the last few years: we had been through so much together, and we were in a special season of our love. Still, that amazing love we had does not compare to God's love.

My prayer for you is that God would open your heart and draw you with cords of love to begin the journey to know Him in a deep way. May He enlighten your spirit and reveal Himself to you as a living, loving God jealous for you. May He draw you by His Holy Spirit into the Holy of Holies where He will share His secrets to your heart through His Word.

He → You



By **Youval Yanay**

Psalm 23 begins with, *“The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.”* In the beginning of the chapter, David refers to God in the third person. *“HE makes me lie down in Green Pastures. HE leads me beside still waters.”* He is the shepherd. But then in verse 4,

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for YOU are with me.”

Here, suddenly God goes from being distant to close: YOU. When we arrive at places of difficulty, there God “transitions” from being the Almighty in an overarching sense; to being the one we can talk with, who takes our hand to lead us. The connection becomes much more intimate – face to face.

Precisely when we cannot see through the shadows. Precisely in the midst of adversity, God changes from

He to You. And that encourages me because when “butterflies” of fear begin fluttering in my stomach, I know that in addition to the challenge in front of me, I am also about to experience closeness to God in a way I could not experience otherwise, while rollicking in green pastures and having all of my needs instantly met.

We see an application of this when Paul writes to Timothy *“...join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God...”* (2 Timothy 1:8 NIV). He says, in effect: We are entering difficulty, but not alone. The strength of God will not leave us, but He is not here to remove hardship. Rather, He is here to help us pass through it, to be changed from the inside and, in the process, to draw closer to Him.





Connecting the Next Generation in Jerusalem

Dear Friend,

Last week, a fifth grade Israeli schoolteacher told the daughter of Jonathan and Simcha, one of our congregational leader couples in Jerusalem, that some families have two fathers, and some have two mothers. This is just the tip of the iceberg.

Today's young generation isn't just exposed to sex, drugs, and rock and roll... they are hit with homosexuality, transgenderism, and an aggressive anti-God spirit through teachers, media, and even political leaders – even in Israel, even in Jerusalem. Satan wants this generation, but God wants them too!

Most Israeli educators are not religious and are in fact often quite anti-religious. Many are atheists. While God's hand is on the Jewish nation because of His grace, it would be a mistake to think that Israelis are any holier than citizens of other nations. We all are in need of God!

God is so passionate about young people that in the End Times He will seal 144,000 pure young believers of that final generation as special witnesses for Him, **“Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him were 144,000 who had His name and His Father's name written on their foreheads.”** (Revelation 14:1)

With darkness rising and drawing near to the End Times, how much longer do we have? Maybe 50 more generations, but maybe only 50 years...maybe even less. This next generation is key and that's why Satan wants them so badly. Yet God wants them more and has plans to raise them up to fulfill their destiny.

God has blessed Ahavat Yeshua Congregation in Jerusalem with a treasure of about 50 children. If I have learned anything over my 20 years of living in Israel, it is that parents and congregations must take a very proactive role in discipling their children. Who knows, maybe these children will be part of that 144,000!

We are investing into them as if they will be the generation of Jerusalemites who will cry out **“Blessed is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord”** and actually see Him come (Matthew 23:39)!

The investment includes subsidized, healthy afterschool activities, discipleship materials, musical worship training, and more. In addition, the Jerusalem congregation is starting a brand-new initiative God has put on their heart – using the paradigm of Messianic Scouts to help instill the values of the Kingdom and exemplify them in Israeli society. Parents want their kids to be trained in loving the Land of Israel but also the God of Israel. They are excited to show kids how to start a fire but also how to live on fire!

We invite you to prayerfully consider helping Ahavat Yeshua Congregation meet this need, launch this program and support what could be the generation that sees revival come to Jerusalem.

- A monthly gift of \$50 provides one child healthy afterschool activities for a month!
- A gift of \$200 provides curriculum for one classroom for a year!
- A gift of \$500 provides all expenses for the Messianic Scouting activities for a month!

The time has come for the Messianic community to be known and to make Yeshua known again in Jerusalem! Thank you so much for praying for the next generation in Jerusalem! Keep praying!

With great appreciation,

Ron Cantor
CEO, Tikkun Global
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